

lines. It is the only species as yet recorded from the Solomon Islands.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE XXXVI.

- Fig. 1, 1 a, 1 b. *Helix (Nanina) nitidissima*, p. 589.
 2, 2 a, 2 b. — (—) *solidiuscula*, p. 589.
 3, 3 a, 3 b. — (*Corasia*) *tricolor*, var., p. 589.
 4. — (*Geotrochus*) *guppyi*, p. 591.
 5. — (—) *dampieri*, var., p. 592.
 6. — (—) *cleryi*, var. *septentrionalis*, p. 592.
 6 a. — (—) —, var. *simboana*, p. 592.
 6 b. — (—) —, var. *meridionalis*, p. 592.
 7, 7 a, 7 b. — (*Videna*) *sanctæ annæ*, p. 594.
 8. *Omphalotropis nebulosa*, p. 597.
 9, 9 a. *Pupina solomonensis*, p. 597.
 10, 10 a. *Helicina egregia*, p. 598.
 11, 11 a, 11 b. — *solomonensis*, p. 599.

PLATE XXXVII.

- Fig. 1. *Melania fastigiella*, p. 601.
 2. —, sp., p. 601.
 3, 3 a. — *subgradata*, p. 601.
 4. — *ujiensis*, p. 602.
 5, 5 a. — *sanctæ annæ*, p. 602.
 6, 6 a. — *guppyi*, p. 603.
 7, 7 a. *Neritina cornea*, var., p. 603.
 8. *Unio guppyi*, exterior of left valve, p. 608.
 8 a. — —, exterior of right valve, p. 608.
 8 b. — —, hinge-margin of left valve, p. 608.

June 16, 1885.

Prof. Flower, LL.D., V.P.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of May 1885:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of May was 164, of which 67 were by presentation, 52 by purchase, 19 by birth, 7 by exchange, and 19 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 117.

The most noticeable additions during the month of May were as follows:—

Four Pucheran's Guinea-fowls (*Numida pucherani*) from Eastern Africa, presented by Commander C. E. Gissing, R.N., H.B.M. Vice-Consul at Zanzibar. This fine species has not lately been represented in the Society's series.

Examples of two species of Wild Cats of the genus *Felis*, presented by Frank Swettenham, Esq., acting British Resident of Perak, Malay Peninsula. Two of the Cats appear to be young examples of *Felis javanensis*; the third is a fine example of the rare *Felis marmorata*, remarkable for its long tail.

The following extracts were read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Mr. J. Büttikofer, dated Leyden Museum, May 30, 1885 :—

“On reading the interesting account of a visit to the birds’-nest caves near Elopura (British North Borneo) by Mr. Pryer, contained in the last part of the ‘Proceedings,’ Dr. Jentink, the Director of our Museum, called my attention to a paper from the hand of the late Dr. Bernstein, our celebrated traveller in the Malay Archipelago, published in the ‘Journal für Ornithologie’ as early as 1859. You would oblige me very much by taking notice of this paper in the next number of the ‘Proceedings,’ as that may serve to correct any impression which might otherwise be entertained that the account of Mr. Pryer, with the adjoined report on the edible birds’ nests by Mr. J. R. Green, is the first satisfactory solution of the question which has been offered. In order to show how thoroughly and successfully Dr. Bernstein has studied the question *in loco*, allow me to quote some of the most interesting parts of his exhaustive treatise.”

Mr. Büttikofer then quoted passages from the article alluded to in the ‘Journal für Ornithologie’ for 1859, pp. 112–115 ; following from which it appeared that Dr. Bernstein had proved most conclusively from his own observations that the so-called edible nests of *Collocalia* are formed from the spittle of these birds, the salivary glands of which are abnormally developed during the breeding-season for this purpose.

The following extract was read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Major-General Sir Peter Lumsden, K.C.B. :—

“The young Snow Leopards of which you inquire were captured on the 17th of November, 1884, on the southern slopes of the mountains which in Persia separate the valley of Zroabad from that of Torbut-i-Jani, crossed here by a road known as the ‘Istoi pass,’ and not very far from where the range is penetrated by the Heri-Rud river, separating Persia from Affghanistan. A native hunter had shot a ‘mish’ (or wild sheep) and had left it in order to go after another, then in sight, which having also secured, he returned to secure the first one, but on reaching it found a Leopardess greedily devouring it. He shot her, and on going up to the body found no less than five young kittens, perhaps ten days or a fortnight old, very active and savage ; he with difficulty managed to secure two of them, which he brought back to camp. They were taken care of by a native, and carried along with us, fed on milk, meat, &c., to Kazan, from whence they were despatched on a mule to the British Agent in Herat, with instructions to send them on the first opportunity to Mr. Barnes, the Government Political Agent, Quettah, who was to arrange for their despatch to the Society’s Gardens.

“Nawab Mirza Hassim Ali Khan, my personal assistant, took them over from the native huntsman who captured them, looked after

their keep, and arrauged everything for their despatch &c. These kittens within a very few days became quite tame.”

Mr. Oldfield Thomas exhibited a specimen of a burrowing Rodent apparently allied to the rare *Heterocephalus glaber*, Rüppell, which had been recently presented to the Natural History Museum, and read the following letter from the donor:—

Junior Carlton Club,
Pall Mall, S.W.,
June 15, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—

In looking at my journal I find the following notes under the date January 29, 1885:—

Gerlogobie, Ogardain, Central Somali-land.—“To-day the natives brought into camp a curious little creature, a sort of Mole, length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, skin bare, with a few stiff hairs. Tail like that of a Hippo. Its toes armed with bristles, and its teeth like those of a Walrus. On being placed on the ground it commenced to dig furiously, using its teeth to loosen the earth with; its eyes were tiny, and its ears simply holes in the sides of its head.”

This little creature, called “Farumfer” by the Somali, throws up in places groups of miniature craters, which exactly represent volcanoes in active eruption; when the little beasts were at work I used frequently to watch them, and found that the loose earth from their excavations was brought to the bottom of the crater, and sent with great force into the air in a succession of rapid jerks, but they themselves never ventured forth from the shelter of their burrows. I caught several by suddenly plunging a sharp-pointed instrument into the volcano, but never succeeded in making good skins of them.

Yours very truly,
E. LORT PHILLIPS, F.Z.S.

Mr. Thomas remarked that no specimen of *H. glaber* had apparently been recorded since Rüppell's original example described just 40 years ago¹; and that it was therefore a matter of great interest to determine whether that author's description of its characters and habits held good on the examination of further specimens, since it had been sometimes supposed that the original type was either immature or diseased, and on that account more or less hairless. This second specimen now proved that Rüppell was quite correct in his description, and that the normal state of the animal was as figured by him. It appeared, however, that the nearest affinities of *Heterocephalus* are not with *Spalax* and *Rhizomys*, as had been supposed by Mr. Alston², who had only Rüppell's figures to go upon, but with *Bathyergus* and *Georychus*, to the latter of which it was very closely allied, differing chiefly in its want of hair, much longer tail, and in its not possessing any premolar teeth.

¹ Mus. Senck. iii. p. 99, pl. vii. (animal), x. (skull), 1845.

² P. Z. S. 1876, p. 86.

Mr. Thomas hoped to be able to give a fuller description, with figures, of this interesting specimen at a future meeting of the Society¹.

Mr. W. T. Blanford exhibited the skull of a *Paradoxurus*, which he believed to be an undescribed form, and made the following remarks:—

The skull now exhibited was sent to me together with a skin, from which unfortunately nearly all the hair had been removed by moths, by the Rev. S. Fairbank, of Ahmednagar in the Bombay Presidency, about two years ago. He had received the specimen from Mr. F. Levinge, who procured it in his own garden at Kodaikanal, on the Palni (or Pulney) hills in the Madura district, Madras Presidency. The natives of the hills called the animal "Kārt-nai," or dog of the woods; and Mr. Fairbank suggested that it might be *Paradoxurus zeylonensis*, Pall. (*P. zeylanicus*, Kelaart), a species hitherto not known to occur elsewhere than in Ceylon. On comparison, however, the skull was found to differ not only from that of *P. zeylonensis*, but from all known species of *Paradoxurus*, in the excessive length of the anterior palatine foramina, which are more than 0·4 inch long (10 millimetres), and extend back as far as a line drawn through the posterior edges of the anterior upper premolars. In all other *Paradoxuri* the foramina are only half as long as in the skull from the Palni Hills, and do not extend back further than a line drawn through the hinder edge of the canines.

On searching amongst specimens in the British Museum, Mr. Oldfield Thomas (to whom I am indebted for much assistance in working out this and other questions connected with Indian zoology) called my attention to a flat skin presented some years since by Mr. F. Day, C.I.E., and different from that of any known *Paradoxurus*. This skin agrees with the description given by Mr. Fairbank, and with the remains of that sent by him; and although the exact locality whence it was procured is uncertain, Mr. Day tells me he is

¹ During the passage of these remarks through the press, I have had, through the kindness of the Directors of the Senckenberg Museum, the opportunity of examining the original type of *H. glaber* described by Rüppell. I find that Mr. Phillips's specimen, while referable to the genus *Heterocephalus*, represents a distinct and very much smaller species, which I would propose to call *H. phillipsi*, after its discoverer. It may be readily distinguished by the following comparative measurements:—

Skull:—	From Lambda to tip of nasals.	Basal length.	Greatest breadth.	Palate length.
	millims.	millims.	millims.	millims.
<i>H. glaber</i>	21·5	(c) 23·2	18·3	13·6
<i>H. phillipsi</i>	16·1	17·5	13·6	9·1

Hind foot:—

<i>H. glaber</i>	21·2
<i>H. phillipsi</i>	16·6

The type of *H. phillipsi* is a fully adult female.
July 30, 1885.

O. T.

